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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /066 W
----------063118 251204Z /50
R 250855Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 1032

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GA SG GV
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH LEADER OF OPPOSITION

1. CHARGE JULY 20 HAD FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION WITH NCP LEADER SHERIFF M. DIBBA SINCE APRIL ELECTION. DIBBA WAS APPRECIATIVE, CORDIAL, AND FRANK THROUGHOUT 45 MINUTE DISCUSSION IN HIS OFFICE. DIBBA RECALLED WITH PLEASURE HIS LEADER GRANT TO US IN 1966 (WHEN HE WAS LEADING PPP FIGURE), AND SPOKE OF BI-ANNUAL VISITS TO WASHINGTON FOR IMF MEETINGS, WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE IN LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S.

2. CONCERNING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, DIBBA SAID HE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED, ADDING THAT EXTENSIVE "CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY" WAS USED TO CUT HIS CHANCES. DIBBA PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED NOMINALLY APOLITICAL SEYFOS (DISTRICT CHIEFS), WHO IN FACT CAMPAIGNED MIGHTLY FOR PPP. ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED TO BE UPSET WITH EXTENT OF "CORRUPTION" WHICH WORKED AGAINST HIM, DIBBA ALSO SEEMED PLEASED THAT HIS UPSTART PARTY (LESS THAN 2 YEARS OLD) HAD WON 6 SEATS (HE CLEARLY MENTIONED "6", INDICATING THAT BANJUL UP SEAT CAN BE CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF HIS MOVEMENT).
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3. DIBBA VOLUNTEERED THAT THE GAMBIA SHOULD BE DOING MUCH MORE TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH SENEGAL. "I FEAR GUINEA," HE SAID WITHOUT ELABORATION, BUT THEN LATER ACCUSED GUINEAN AMBASSADOR BANGOURA OF ENCOURAGING GUINEAN RESIDENTS HERE TO REGISTER AND VOTE FOR PPP (NOT INCON-CEIVABLE). AS KNOWN ANTI-WOLOF MANDINKA, DIBBA MAY FEEL HE

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MUST PROVE HE IS NOT AGAINST SENEGAL.

4. TURNING TO DOMESTIC SCENE, DIBBA SAID COUNTRY MUST DEVELOP GREATER DISCIPLINE, AND PEOPLE MUST WORK HARDER. HE DEPLORED PETTY CORRUPTION WITHIN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND LACKADAISICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH CHARACTERIZES CIVIL SERVICE MENTALITY. ON HIS OWN FUTURE, DIBBA APPEARS CONTENT TO PLAY VIGOROUS BUT CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AS PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF OPPOSITION. HE DID NOT DISMISS OUT OF HAND POPULAR RUMOR THAT HE MAY YET SEEK RECONCILIATION WITH SIR DAWDA, BUT ASSERTED CLEARLY THAT HE HAD REASONS FOR HIS FALLING OUT WITH PRESIDENT. SHOULD HE RETURN TO PPP, IT WOULD *** BE ON*BASIS OF SUBMISSION AND PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS WHICH CHARACTERIZED RETURN TO PARTY OF SUCH OTHER "RENEGADES" AS CURRENT CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR SHERIFF CISAY (IN 1972).
WYGANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: CONVERSATION WITH LEADER OF OPPOSITION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GA, SG, GV, (DIBBA, SHERIFF M)
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